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TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.60/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. By operative paragraphs 1 to 3 of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.60/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide that, in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary-General, the building of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research would be immediately transferred to the United Nations in return for the cancellation of the debt of the Institute and that coverage of its financial obligations for 1992 as well as the cost of all transitional arrangements would be assumed by the United Nations;

(b) Also decide that, in accordance with the recommendations of the high-level consultant, as approved by the Board of Trustees of the Institute, the New York Office should be streamlined, provided with the necessary facilities and staffed, at a minimum, by a Director, one General Service staff member, three full-time senior fellows and additional full-time senior fellows on a non-remuneration basis to undertake existing training programmes designed to meet the growing training needs in the fields of multilateral diplomacy, peace-keeping, peace-building and peacemaking and to conduct research, as well as to carry out the restructured programmes in economic and social training organized in cooperation with the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank;

(c) Further decide that the funding of the Institute' administrative budget and training programmes would in future be covered from voluntary contributions, special-purpose grants and executing agency overheads.

2. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) was established in 1965, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1934 (XVIII) of 11 December 1963. The Institute was set up as an autonomous entity within the framework of the United Nations for the purpose of providing research and training for Member States. In accordance with its Statute, UNITAR should be fully financed from extrabudgetary resources. Since its inception, however, the financial situation of the Institute has been the subject of constant concern. By resolution 38/177 of 19 December 1983, the General Assembly provided the Institute with an advance of $886,000 from the regular budget. As at 30 June 1992, the overall debt of UNITAR to the United Nations, reflecting shortfalls and deficits for the previous period, stood at $6,554,700, which, together with the sum advanced by the United Nations for the purchase of land, amounted to $10,970,800 and is expected to reach approximately $11.8 million by the end of 1992.

3. By resolution 45/219 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to appoint a high-level independent consultant who would submit a report containing recommendations concerning the Institute. The consultant's report (see A/46/482, annex) stated that the mandate of UNITAR remained valid, and contained a number of recommendations on the restructuring of the Institute and the streamlining of its operations.

4. By resolution 46/180 of 19 December 1991, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, on the basis of the recommendations of the high-level consultant, to prepare a report for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session which would, inter alia, propose ways and means of resolving the outstanding debt of the Institute to the United Nations.

5. In his report (A/47/458) the Secretary-General concluded that the best course for resolving the problem of the debt would be for the United Nations to take over the UNITAR building in New York in return for the cancellation of the debt and coverage of the financial obligations in 1992.

B. Financial arrangements and estimated resource requirements in 1992-1993

6. In order to implement the requests contained in the draft resolution, the following arrangements would have to be made.

7. The UNITAR debt to the United Nations, which is to be cancelled in return for the immediate transfer of the building to the United Nations, amounted as at 30 June 1992 to $10,970,800. Of this amount, $4,416,100 was advanced to UNITAR for the purchase of the land on which the building is situated. The balance of $6,554,700 represents advances to UNITAR to meet the shortfalls in its administrative budget. The amount needed to finance UNITAR activities

from July to December 1992 is estimated at $851,700. Thus, the debt of UNITAR to be cancelled would be $11,822,500 as at 31 December 1992.

8. For the United Nations to take over the UNITAR building, it would be necessary for the Organization to incur expenses related to the maintenance and provision of security for the premises. Such costs would amount to $647,000 in 1993. Moreover, taking into account the unsafe and unsatisfactory condition of the UNITAR building, it would be necessary for the United Nations to make the necessary repairs and improvements. These costs are estimated at $2,907,000.

9. Furthermore, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 42/197 of 11 December 1987, the existing staff members of the UNITAR New York office (totalling ten, including one P-5, one P-4, one P-2 and seven General Service) are to be absorbed within the United Nations system without suffering loss of rank or benefits. As their placement elsewhere in the system is expected to require at least six months in 1993, the related staff costs are estimated to amount to $300,500.

10. In accordance with paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, the streamlined UNITAR New York office should be provided with the necessary facilities and staffed, at a minimum, by a Director, one General Service staff member, three full-time senior fellows and additional full-time senior fellows on a non-remuneration basis. It is understood that there would be seven senior fellows on a non-remuneration basis. Moreover, it is assumed that one of the General Service staff members mentioned in paragraph 9 above would be retained in the streamlined office. Thus, the staff-related costs for the streamlined New York office are estimated at $208,000 in 1993.

11. The cost of the programme activities which it is requested be undertaken by the streamlined UNITAR New York office in 1993 would be as follows:

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Training in peace-keeping, peace-building and peacemaking	112 000
Training in the field of multilateral diplomacy	86 000
Conduct of research as well as the carrying out of the restructured programmes in economic and social training organized in cooperation with the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank	124 000
Publications/documentation	61 000
Programme operational costs	135 000
Total	518 000

12. The streamlined UNITAR New York office will need to be provided in 1993 with office space for a Director and the General Service staff member, as well as for the ten senior fellows. These requirements are estimated at $82,000 for rental of office space and $619,300 for general operating costs. Similar office arrangements will need to be made during the transitional period of six months for the remaining three Professional and six General Service staff members referred to in paragraph 9 above; this would require an additional $15,500 for rental of office space and $296,500 for operating costs for six months.

13. It is the understanding of the Secretary-General that all future requirements of the Institute, beginning in 1994, as well as the requirements of the UNITAR Geneva office in 1993, would be covered from voluntary contributions, special-purpose grants and executing agency overheads, while the requirements of the streamlined UNITAR New York office and the costs during the transitional period in 1993 would be financed from the United Nations regular budget.

14. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.60/Rev.1, the following additional resources, as indicated in paragraphs 7 to 12 above would be required:

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(a)	Cancellation of UNITAR debt and coverage of its financial obligations in 1992 (para. 7)	11 822 500
(b)	Annual cost to the United Nations of building maintenance and security (para. 8)	647 000
(c)	Repairs and improvement of the building (para. 8)	2 907 000
(d)	Transitional arrangements from 1 January to 30 June 1993, including the financing of the staff members to be redeployed, rental of office space and general operating expenses for six months in 1993 (paras. 9 and 12)	612 500
(e)	Costs of the streamlined UNITAR New York office in 1993 including training and research activities (paras. 10, 11 and 12)	1 427 300
	Total	17 416 300

15. No activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 in order to absorb the above-mentioned requirements.

C. Summary

16. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.60/Rev.1, an additional appropriation in the amount of $17,416,300 would be required under section 34 (Special expenses) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.